

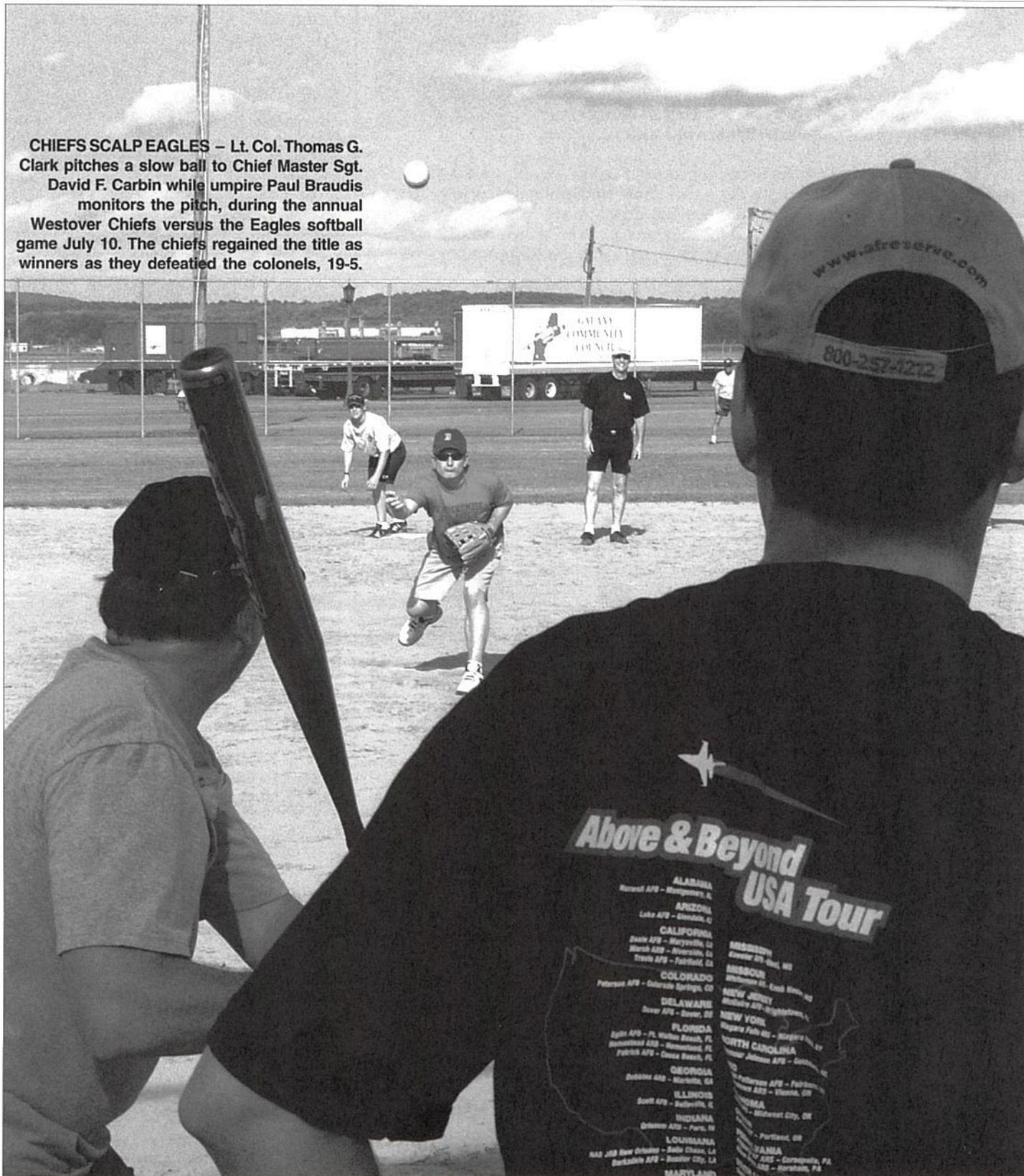
PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
August 2004 • Vol. 31, No. 8

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CHIEFS SCALP EAGLES – Lt. Col. Thomas G. Clark pitches a slow ball to Chief Master Sgt. David F. Carbin while umpire Paul Braudis monitors the pitch, during the annual Westover Chiefs versus the Eagles softball game July 10. The chiefs regained the title as winners as they defeated the colonels, 19-5.



439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Air show is cooperative venture

An air show is a lot like a jigsaw puzzle - thousands of intricate pieces have to fit together perfectly in order to make the finished product.

That's precisely what has happened here at Westover for the past eight months as we prepare for the Great New England Air Show.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Galaxy Community Council and every one of you - both civilian and military - we feel we are fully prepared to invite a half a million or so of our best friends to visit the base and take a look at some of the equipment that their tax dollars help pay for.

While good planning is important, it's imperative that we also work just as hard in the execution. That means during the show we have to demonstrate to the public that we are the professional Airmen they expect to see. We also have to carry out the details we are assigned the best we can. Whether it's parking cars, manning the entry points or doing set-up/clean-up, every job is important to the show's success.

The Great New England Air Show is also a time for all of you to invite your families to Westover to enjoy the festivities. You have all been working hard and have been asked to sacrifice much since the attacks of 9/11. You certainly deserve some time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

My sincere and deep appreciation goes out to all of you who came together and worked so diligently. Each of you played an integral part in preparing the 2004 air show to be as successful as the many shows here in years past.

by Col. Wade Farris
439th Airlift Wing commander



Commentary



CROWDING IN - Huge crowds, pictured above at Westover's air show in 2000, are expected at this year's Great New England Air Show. - file photo

Briefs

Shoppette opens earlier beginning on A UTA

The base shoppette is temporarily extending its hours for the September and October A UTAs. It will be staffed from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Shoppette manager Bill Lodge said the staff will review how many more customers use the shoppette before any decision is made to make the hours permanent.

For more information, call Mr. Lodge at Ext. 3869.

Alterations shop opens in base exchange

The alterations shop is open in the base exchange. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information, call 593-0232.

Galaxy Express Store stocks office items

The on-base Galaxy Express Store stocks a variety of office supplies. It is located on Logistics Drive in the northern end of the base supply building and is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The store is closed on UTAs.

For more information, call Shelley Milstein, store manager, at Ext. 2821, or e-mail at shelley@cabvi.org, web site: www.BSCexpress.com

Schedule lists wing UTAs for fiscal 2005

The following is the UTA schedule for Westover ARB for fiscal 2005:

	A	B
October	2-3	16-17
November	6-7	20-21
December	4-5	NO B UTA
January	8-9	22-23
February	5-6	26-27
March	5-6	19-20
April	9-10	23-24
May	14-15	21-22
June	4-5	25-26
July	9-10	23-24
August	6-7	20-21
September	10-11	NO B UTA

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Former Phantom pilot takes command of OSS

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

Lt. Col. Louis M. Shogry III, who flew a Phantom II in Desert Storm and Galaxies in Enduring Freedom, accepted the flag of command of the 439th Operations Support Squadron July 10. He succeeded Lt. Col. Patricia A. Evans, who is serving as wing inspector general.

A native of Pittsfield, Mass., Colonel Shogry was commissioned through Officer Training School following graduation from the Florida Institute of Technology.

During almost seven years of active duty he served as an F-4G Wild Weasel pilot at George AFB, Calif., and Spangdahlem AB, Germany. The last Air Force model of the venerable Phantom, the F-4G was armed with HARM missiles to knock out the radar of surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery batteries.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Colonel Shogry served in the AOR for seven months in 1991, flying Wild Weasel sorties out of Bahrain. He completed 35 combat missions, earning the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

Colonel Shogry joined the 337th Airlift Squadron as a C-5 pilot in 1993 and served as an instructor pilot and later evaluation pilot. He was activated with other squadron members following the 9/11 attacks on America, flying Enduring Freedom missions throughout the following year.

As the 439th OSS commander, Colonel Shogry will be responsible for what may be the squadron with the most diverse mission in the wing. With an authorized strength of 78 military members, the squadron supports all aspects of flying operations, including life support, intelligence, flight records, base operations, weather, airfield management and air traffic control. Most recently,



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

OSS BOSS – Members of the 439th Operations Support Squadron welcome Lt. Col. Louis M. Shogry III with his wife, Jayne, and oldest son Louis, following the OSS change of command July 10.

the intel shop was named best in Air Mobility Command.

“Steering a dynamic squadron like the 439th OSS, a multi-tasked squadron, provides a great challenge. I look forward to working with many outstanding professionals who are top in their field in AMC and AFRC,” the new commander said.

Colonel Shogry is employed as a pilot by United Parcel Service, an employer he credits for “outstanding support of the guard and reserve program.” He and his wife, Jayne, and their two sons reside in New Milford, Conn.

Leadership tackles Patriot Wing retention issues

by Senior Master Sgt. Sandi Michon

What can we do to get you to stay?

That was the question posed to 62 Westover commanders, chiefs and first sergeants at a retention brainstorming session held July 9. With a retention rate hovering at 87 percent, Westover ranks lowest in 22nd Air Force – and wing commander Col. Wade Farris, wants that to change. “I don’t like being last and I don’t think you do either,” he told Westover leaders.

The colonel led the problem-solving session with a vision and mission statement review and participation was vigorous as the group hammered out an agreement regarding wing priorities. With that information, they set one- and five-year goals.

After a recruiting briefing, reservists broke into three brainstorming groups to push for solutions. Ideas ran a wide gamut and included: ancillary training changes, one four-day UTA to free the July UTA, deployment credit for inspections, promotion procedure changes and reenlistment incentives. Top five ideas from each group were presented, along with the “wildest” ideas, but all ideas were captured and forwarded to the base Human Resource Development

Council for further study. In addition, Colonel Farris formed a nine-member retention working committee to actively work the issues presented.

“I think it went really well. We came away with excellent ideas to improve recruiting and retention,” Colonel Farris said.

Wing performance managers, Maj. Richard C. Tilburg and Chief Master Sgt.

Kathy Wood facilitated the meeting and received many positive comments. Phrases such as, “Great meeting – perfect timing – definitely needed,” were often repeated.

According to Chief Wood, wing officials are taking the retention figures and the Air Force Climate Survey results very seriously and are carrying out procedures to track results.

Climate survey gives wing a ‘thumbs-up’

by Master Sgt. Tom Allocco

The typical Patriot Wing member feels the quality of work in their section is high and what they do is important. On the down side, people question if they get all the resources they need and the proper recognition they have earned.

More than half of wing members responded to an anonymous survey in which they expressed opinions of their workplace, leadership and other factors affecting the day-to-day mission in the 439th Airlift Wing.

The local results of last fall’s Air Force Climate Survey are circulating and in the

words of Gen. John P. Jumper, chief of staff of the Air Force, the next step is to “build on the positive things in your units and fix the things that need improvement.”

Among the “positives” in the Patriot Wing, 98 percent of respondents feel that “doing my job well affects others in some important way” and “my unit is successfully accomplishing the mission.” Almost as many say their supervisor gives them the freedom to work with minimum supervision, co-workers uphold standards of excellence and they have the satisfaction of being able to see the finished product of their work.

They responded positively when asked about accessibility and trust in their chain of command, opportunities for self-im-

see SURVEY continued on Page 4

Patriot Wing reservists again fill AEF 'bucket'

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

About 125 Westover reservists have answered the call to fill critical slots in the Aerospace Expeditionary Force cycle in September. The September rotation marks the resumption of the AEF deployments, which were suspended due to the Global War on Terrorism, and the first cycle to experience 120-day deployments, up from the previous 90-day requirement.

The deploying reservists come from several Westover units, and will deploy to approximately six countries, said Lt. Col. Forrest D. Price, logistics readiness officer with the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Supporting AEFs is nothing new for the Patriot Wing, he said, noting that Westover was involved in the first AEF deployment in October 1999 and others since.

There are 10 AEFs; each represents a "bucket" of capabilities and leadership elements to cover known and contingency requirements on a cyclical basis of 120 days every 20 months. Previously, the cycle was 90 days every 15 month. Each is roughly similar in capability and consists of aircraft, weapons systems and Airmen from active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

That means Westover will not be asked to provide AEF forces for three years, Colonel Price said. However, he added, that could change if AEF cycles are again suspended

SURVEY continued from Page 3

provement, sense of being a valued member of their unit and general satisfaction.

Wing members say there is room for improvement. Almost one-quarter of respondents feel they do not have enough people in their work group to do the job. The survey indicated a similar level of concern about adequate recognition for job performance. More than 20 percent feel they do not have enough time to accomplish their daily workload during duty hours. Twenty-nine percent did not agree that "my unit challenges old ways of doing business."

The opinions of Patriot Wing members closely mirrored results across the board among other active duty and reserve units.

Following the release of results, a step by step process is underway to find and make improvements where the wing can do better. Every wing member is scheduled to be briefed on the results by squadron commanders and section leaders on the survey results.

To make it easier to address concerns, squadron leaders received an overall assessment of their squadron, while section leaders have the results of their own section.

"The idea is for problems to be identified and to be worked at the lowest levels. For example, a steering committee may ask sec-

Security forces deploy to Cuba



CUBA BOUND - Col. Dana S. Marsh, 439th Mission Support Squadron, talks with deploying members of the 439th Security Forces Squadron. They are, from left, Master Sgt. Marc A. Bourgeois, Senior Airman Arjel J. Falcon, Tech. Sgt. Edward J. Majersky, and (back row) Staff Sgt. Russell A. Hedges.

- photos by Command Chief
Master Sgt. Jeff Sherwin



SPIRIT OF THE YOUNG - Eric Briere, son of Staff Sgt. Ronald Briere, shows his American spirit while clutching a small flag May 26. Thirteen 439th SFS members deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for three months.

due to a major conflict.

The new 20-month cycle provides commanders and Airmen the ability to plan, allowing a sense of predictability while providing greater continuity to theater commanders, according to Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

One of the units providing sizeable support to this AEF cycle is the 439th Civil Engineer Squadron, which will deploy approximately 50 people. Chief Master Sgt. Randy J. Malek, PRIME BEEF program manager, said the unit is looking forward to the deployment for one reason. "We finally get to go on a deployment as a team," he said. The

squadron has supported contingencies for years on a "piecemeal" basis, he said. "We train as a team but never had the opportunity to deploy as a team until now," he said.

AEFs were brought about as a result of several factors including an increase in global requirements, a 40-percent reduction in force and an Air Force structure designed to contain communism during the Cold War. As a result, senior leadership sought to structure the Air Force to make it more responsive, give Airmen predictability and stability and "spread the wealth" to different people and units.

tion leaders and squadron commanders to re-examine policies on awards presentations or informal recognition in the workplace," said Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen M. Wood, wing performance manager.

"Although the problem solving process starts with the individual in the workplace and section leaders, it continues all the way up the chain of command. Ultimately the Patriot Wing will report to 22nd Air Force on our response to the survey," she said.

More than 1,200 Patriot Wing members, almost 53 percent of the wing, responded to the Air Force Climate Survey last October and November. Formerly known as the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey, it was the first time that reservists were included in the Air Force-wide survey.

Respondents answered about 60 questions focusing on such issues as core values, supervision, teamwork, training and general satisfaction.

Air Force Management Analysis, developer of the survey, recognizes leaders who make an exceptional effort to use the results of the Air Force Climate Survey.

To nominate someone for the Spotlight recognition program, contact Chief Wood at the 439th AW Performance Management Office at Ext. 2876.

Chaplain tends to spiritual needs of those serving in Iraq

by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

War is hell.

A rocket slammed into an American base in Iraq, killing three Americans and wounding 25 others. Air and ground forces quickly responded with return fire in the area where the attack was launched. Amid the ebb and flow of combat, Capt. Kenneth S. Valardi, a deployed 439th Airlift Wing chaplain, responded in a different way. His place was at the bedsides of those wounded in the attack.

For those who have experienced war firsthand, dealing with the physical and mental trauma is a long and difficult journey. Chaplain Valardi helps military men and women in Iraq by providing a combination of guidance and compassion to counteract the often-grim realities of war.

"I've observed scores of airmen and soldiers lined up, standing at attention, saluting as the flag draped coffin passes...we board the plane where we perform a short service in honor of the person," he wrote in a recent e-mail.

Chaplain Valardi, a minister of the Assembly of God, volunteered for a 90-day deployment to Balad AB, in the Sunni Triangle, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq in May. He is serving with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Chaplain Valardi sees the terrible face of war every day in Iraq. His ministry conducts hospital visitations, religious services, bible studies and humanitarian outreach programs.



DESERT PHOTO - The Iraq desert frames Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth S. Valardi and Master Sgt. Eva Beckner, a reserve chaplain assistant deployed from Travis AFB, Calif.



photos by Staff Sgt. Cohen Young, 332nd AEW Public Affairs

MORALE CHECK - Chaplain (Capt.) Kenneth S. Valardi talks with Senior Airman Trevor Cummings, a Montana Air National Guard F-16 crew chief, on the flight line at Balad Air Base. Chaplain Valardi is serving with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

He walks quietly down the corridors of the base hospitals where injured soldiers are treated, he said, looking for signs that a service member may need guidance. Some are in pain and looking for meaning in their experiences. Some just need to talk, while others simply find solace in the presence of a spiritual figure, he said. However, despite the harrowing tales, many people have a positive attitude, which has been echoed in many of the chaplain service's programs.

"Since arriving in the early morning hours of June 1, I have had a chance to deliver numerous invocations and prayers at public and private functions, including prayers for personnel preparing to leave for air or ground missions," he wrote.

"Most of the fighting you see on TV is in this region. Day and night all we hear are helicopters and jets and cargo planes flying in and out or on patrol. After a few days you can sleep right through most of it," the chaplain wrote.

"At night it is very dark...but it is quite a spectacular sight to see fighter jets take off in the middle of the night. They fly off with no lights on and all you can see is the glow of their afterburners protruding from their engines. It actually looks as if a comet is streaking across the sky, but instead it is followed by a deafening roar," he wrote.

Chaplain Valardi said there has been a huge interest among people in providing humanitarian aid to local communities.

"The level of generosity and compas-

sion is striking to me. I am humbled by their commitment to their duty and willingness to sacrifice in the name of freedom," he said.

"We've spent more than a few hours sorting gifts and supplies to be used in humanitarian missions, whereby toiletries, books and school supplies, clothes and shoes, toys, etc. are periodically distributed to Iraqi children and their families. Let me tell you, there is no shortage of generosity and compassion by the American people," he wrote.

Brutal summer temperatures, stinging winds carrying desert sand, frequent tragedy and mortal danger characterize the environment many military personnel are faced with in Iraq. Balad AB is littered with shot-up MiGs and demolished Iraqi tanks. Power black-outs are a daily occurrence and for security reasons the chaplain and other volunteers can no longer leave base, even on humanitarian missions.

"Most days have been between 100 to 118 degrees. Fortunately, there is often a breeze blowing. Yes, it's a hot breeze, but a breeze nonetheless. Dust is forever blowing around under a blindingly bright, hot sun. The nights, however, are cooler and feel pretty good," the chaplain wrote.

Chaplain Valardi sees his job as providing a necessary element of humanity to those who sacrifice for their country in war. "Even in the worst of times, in the worst of environments, there's a chance for good," he said.

Patriot Wing professionals earn AFRC awards

by AFRC News Service
and staff

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – The 439th Services Squadron represented multiple winners in Air Force Reserve Command's individual services awards this year.

Richard A. Heller, sports specialist at the fitness center, was honored as the top senior civilian specialist. William Fagan, a recreation assistant, earned best civilian specialist honors.

Mr. Heller has been on the fitness center staff for 10 years. This was his first time win-



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

FINE TUNING - William Fagan, a recreation assistant at the fitness center, adjusts the chain on a stationary bicycle. Mr. Fagan recently earned the best civilian specialist award in Air Force Reserve Command.

ning an award at Westover. He won some unit citation and training awards during his time served in the Army as well.

Mr. Fagan has been on the staff for about four years. "I was surprised to get this award," he said. "I like that somebody took the time to show appreciation for what we do. I work with good people here. We learn different things every day. There's a lot more that goes into the work here at the gym than coming here to work out. Everybody shares what they know."

The services squadron also earned top command awards for best bowling program and best sports and fitness program. Patriot Wing reservists can expect an even better fitness program at the base soon. The fitness center is scheduled for extensive renovations, to include air conditioning, beginning in September.

A workout area will be set up in Bldg. 5101 as a temporary fitness area.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

WORKOUT WIZARD - Richard A. Heller, fitness center sports specialist, assists Sarah Mekal of Chicopee, Mass., with her workout. Mr. Heller is the top senior civilian specialist in Air Force Reserve Command.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

MEDICAL AWARDS - These members of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron recently earned command awards. They are from left, Senior Master Sgt. Charles A. Whittington, Master Sgt. Lisa R. Laudenslager, and Staff Sgt. Matthew B. Dallachie.

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command announced AFRC's medical awards June 4, recognizing the top individuals and units in the command for 2003.

The awards included three people from the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at Westover: Non-deployable medical units - air reserve technician non-commissioned officer, Master Sgt. Lisa R. Laudenslager; Reserve NCO, Senior

Master Sgt. Charles A. Whittington; and Reserve airman, Senior Airman (now Staff Sgt.) Matthew B. Dallachie.

Chief Master Sgt. George P. Kudla, 439th AMDS administrator, said the squadron unit has won more awards than any other AFRC medical unit in the country in the last 15 years. "We've had 25 award winners," he said. "We won all five categories at 22nd Air Force. When you have good people, you can't go wrong."

Marine earns Air Force Achievement Medal

Gunnery Sergeant James E. Grandchamp, a member of the Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, assigned to Westover, has been awarded an Air Force Achievement Medal. GySgt. Grandchamp proved to be an invaluable asset to the 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron, vehicle operations flight from November 2002 to November 2003.

It's show time!

Base to host air spectacular; expecting 500,000 visitors

by Senior Airman Tom Ouellette

Westover ARB will present the Great New England Air Show Aug. 14 and 15. The air show will feature many of the top flying exhibitions and static displays of aircraft. Headliners include the elite Thunderbirds, the Army Golden Knights, and Mike Goulian, an aerial acrobatic wizard. A half-million aviation enthusiasts are expected to attend. The event is open to the public and admission is free. Ample parking is available with shuttle service.

For more information, go to www.greatnewenglandairshow.com, or call the air show message line at 557-2707, or the 439th AW Public Affairs office at 557-3500.

Security and safety are the highest priorities

Westover authorities are reminding reservists to immediately report any suspicious activity or safety concerns to security forces while working or enjoying the air show. "Remember it's better to be safe than sorry; report anything that may cause potential trouble, regardless of how trivial it may first appear," said Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander. "When talking to visitors and the media, always act professionally, courteous and use common sense. It's appropriate to answer general questions regarding the Westover mission, your job, and yourself."

Reservists who are asked anything outside of these areas, such as questions about deployments, base operations, policy or political opinions, etc., should direct people to the public affairs booth located between Hangars 5 and 7.

The following are reminders to reservists and their guests:

- ✓ Reservists must have valid base stickers on their windshields. The Westover Road and Fairview gates will be open for spectators from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- ✓ Every visitor is subjected to a 100 percent check before entry to the event. All persons and their items, including purses, baby strollers, cameras, etc. will be completely inspected.
- ✓ No weapons of any kind are allowed, including firearms, knives, and tools
- ✓ No coolers, backpacks, duffle bags, or large totes
- ✓ No pets
- ✓ No large (golf) umbrellas, roller blades, or skateboards
- ✓ Cameras and video cameras are allowed, but may need to be opened by security, so people are advised to load any film after passing through security.

Celebration time!

This year's air show selected the theme, "Salute to the Citizen Soldier," as a tribute to reservists and support people. In this spirit, Westover has many events planned for its reservists, civilian employees, and their families to enjoy.

Aug. 13 - A pre-kick off air show party, complete with Polynesian food and entertainment by the Hu Ke Lau restaurant, is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Westover Club. The event is free for club members, \$15 for non-members.

Aug. 14 - Held at the base ellipse, food and live entertainment begins at 6 p.m. for reservists and their families. The event is free and will be closed to the public.

Aug. 15 - A "Survivors' Party" is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. at the Westover Club. Live entertainment from "Catch-22" will rock the hall and a barbecue will be in full swing. The event is free to club members and non-members will be charged a nominal fee.

**Times of events are subject to change.*

Air Force to showcase range of aircraft at show

Visitors can tour airlifters like Westover's C-5 Galaxy, view the cockpits of the smaller fighter jets, and can take a look at the military's latest transport, the C-17A Globemaster III, during this year's air show.

Some of the military aircraft scheduled to appear will bring back memories for many Westover retirees and Pioneer Valley residents. People can see the B-52 bomber and KC-135 tanker, which were assigned to the base during the Cold War years at the base.

Other aircraft scheduled are the A-10, C-141C, C-17, C-23, F-15, KC-10, T-37, T-38, and WC-130J.

Army and Air Force helicopters will also be featured, and Navy aircraft scheduled to appear include an EA-6B Prowler, F/A-18A Hornet and S-3B Viking. Several more military aircraft are also scheduled to be on display but had not confirmed with the base in early July. The Army Golden Knights parachute team will perform both days of the show.



DELTA FORMATION - The six F-16C Fighting Falcons of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team will headline this year's Great New England Air Show at Westover, Aug. 14-15. The team will perform both days of the air show.

Fighting for life

AMXS sergeant helps sick daughter's struggle

Article and photo
by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

Raising a baby under the age of one and watching the child blossom into the two's traditionally is a joyous and blessed event for most parents - filled with a lifetime of happy memories and photographs. Helplessly watching your 10-month-old baby girl suffer from leukemia and the devastating effects of chemotherapy ravaging her body, however, is a parent's worst nightmare.

The ongoing battle for baby Kayla Case Henson's life, now 15 months old, is not her challenge alone. Her families, extended military family and local community are fighting side-by-side with her, said her father, Tech. Sgt. Ron Case of Agawam, Mass., an air reserve technician with the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The generous and loving support of family and friends through fund-raising events and benefits has greatly helped ease their stress and financial burden while his daughter fights the fight of her life, he said. Diagnosed in February with acute lymphoid leukemia, Kayla spends too much of her time in and out of hospitals and experimental treatments.

"Through the dedicated efforts of Kayla's mom (Tina Henson), many friends and AMXS, we've raised thousands of dollars so far, every penny of which has been a huge help," Sergeant Case said. "The money is not the important goal. Keeping Kayla alive is."

Since Kayla's illness, Sergeant Case has taken more than nine weeks off from work so he and Tina could be at their daughter's bedside between Bay State Medical Center, Springfield, and Dana-Farber Children's Hospital Cancer Care in Boston. After hanging fund-raising posters around the squadron, he said he found the



LOVING CARE - Kayla Case Henson is fed a bottle before bedtime by her parents, Tina Henson and Tech. Sgt. Ron Case, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron air reserve technician. Members of Sergeant Case's squadron have stepped forward to help as Kayla battles leukemia and receives chemotherapy treatments.

heartfelt support received from co-workers throughout the unit and command section overwhelming.

The squadron sold raffle tickets, held benefits and sent out a base-wide request for blood donors, said Senior Master Sgt. Earl E. Duncan, Jr., 439th AMXS first sergeant. Both he and the commander, Maj. Mark F. Wilson, said they wanted to do anything they could to help the family through its ordeal since maintenance members have a history of community involvement.

"Our people always find time to give, whether financially or with blood donations - a large portion of our 300 members contribute in some way," Major Wilson said. "Ron and Tina have given many years of service to various organizations, such as the Springfield Ronald McDonald House, and now it's their turn to receive."

Kayla's courageous struggle has been heartbreaking to watch and the prognosis has not been good until now, Sergeant Case said. At her young age she remains a fighter. Doctors say she has a 40 percent chance of survival with chemotherapy and the odds increase to 80 percent with a

bone marrow transplant since a donor has been found. The transplant was scheduled for July 29 at Dana-Farber.

"She has gone through pure hell that would be hard on any adult," Sergeant Case said. "Everything that could go wrong, did go wrong - from typical reactions to the chemo (nausea, vomiting, yellow skin, low platelets and red blood cells weakening her resistance and hair loss) to serious infections. Unfortunately, chemo every few weeks was a necessary part of her treatment."

Treatments could take from two to five years, with no guarantee of success, her father said. There is the possibility of organ damage due to her young age and small growing body since chemo is not generally given to children under age 2.

"Her best chance for survival is the bone marrow transplant," Sergeant Case said. "If this is successful, the chemo stops. We hope to see positive results in the next few weeks and months."

While Kayla's family anxiously awaits good news, finding an A positive match was only the first step of a difficult

see KAYLA continued on next page

"Bone marrow transplants aren't necessarily long or complicated for either donor or recipient, but screening, operative preparation and recovery is."

-- Tech. Sgt. Ron Case, father of Kayla Case Henson

Junior enlisted council donates items to Soldiers Home

Article and photo
by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover reservists recently donated several boxes of toiletry items to the Soldiers Home in Holyoke in July.

Members of the Patriot Wing's Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) led the donation drive that started in May and wound up on the June B UTA.



DONATION DRIVE - Senior Airman Michael Hyde, wing chaplain assistant, drops off 10 boxes of toiletry items at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke July 9. Pictured with Airman Hyde is John Moylan, Soldiers Home Deputy Superintendent.

Senior Airman Michael Hyde, a 439th Airlift Wing chaplain assistant, dropped off the items with the Soldiers Home July 9. "The chaplain's staff came up with the idea of donating the items to the home and coordinated with the JEAC members to collect the donations at various areas across the base," Airman Hyde said. "This was a joint project with the JEAC and the chapel center."

JEAC members meet on Sundays of the A UTAs at 9 a.m. in the conference room in the 439th Mission Support Group conference room. Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, chairs the JEAC. The 439th AW Command CMSgt. Jeff Sherwin, leads it. With direct access to the wing commander, the council is an advisory board to Colonel Farris, bringing to his attention any quality of life concerns or complaints junior enlisted members have. Council members also assist with serving on quarterly awards boards.

Patriot Wing members from airmen basic through technical sergeant may serve on the council. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Andrew S. Biscoe at Ext. 2020 or Tech. Sgt. Patrick Conway at Ext. 2346.

Council members address concerns directly with wing commander

- The Junior Enlisted Advisory Council (JEAC) members have direct contact with Westover's senior leadership each month
- JEAC members meet with Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, on Sundays of the A UTAs at 9 a.m. in the 439th Mission Support Group conference room
- Members represent each squadron on base. They bring any quality of life concerns or complaints junior enlisted members may have, to the monthly meetings.

KAYLA continued from Page 8

process.

"Bone marrow transplants aren't necessarily long or complicated for either donor or recipient, but screening, operative preparation and recovery is," said Sergeant Case.

For Kayla, an eight-day hospital quarantine before surgery is required to ensure no presence of infection, followed by a 50- to 100-day hospital recovery afterward, on to the Ronald McDonald House for several more weeks then back and forth to Boston for follow-up.

For the donor, several blood drawings at a blood bank are necessary to pass a battery of tests, and an overnight hospital stay before the operation to extract up to two quarts of bone marrow from both hips.

National Marrow Donor Program health officials say Kayla is fortunate to find a match. Thousands of patients are currently searching the registry for donors. The benefits of the procedure far outweigh any difficulties encountered in the process, said her parents, hopeful at the prospects.

"Kayla is our miracle baby, having her (late in life at 45) has changed our lives and brought us closer together" said Tina Henson. "I can't believe the generosity of total strangers, even an 8-year-old boy from Indian Orchard sent a \$10 check from his savings hoping to help."

Interest in Kayla's condition was generated in local newspapers with an article and photographs published in May issues of the Springfield and Agawam newspapers. Publicity helped promote the urgency for blood and marrow donations at Bay State.

Sergeant Case said the continued support from his unit is appreciated and he is grateful for the kindness and understanding of co-workers. Working the night shift allows him the flexibility to take Kayla to medical appointments as needed.

Between treatments and unaware of the care and concern of so many well-wishers, Kayla is teething and learning to walk and talk, only minus her hair. Her angelic face lights up a room with her presence and her wide chestnut brown eyes sparkle when she smiles, vividly contrasting her delicate alabaster complex-

Information on Kayla's progress or to make donations: "The Friends of Kayla"
(413) 786-6713
Information on becoming a donor, visit
www.marrow.org

ion.

While striving for some semblance of normalcy in their lives, she and her family still have a long uphill climb before the possibility of recovery. No one could guess her struggle though looking at Kayla's determined face - she hides it well.

For more information on Kayla's progress or to make donations, call The Friends of Kayla at (413) 786-6713. There are also plans to build a Web site through the hospital. For more information on becoming a donor, contact the NMBP at: www.marrow.org



REUNITED - Staff Sgt. Scott E. Trumble, celebrates his reunion June 19 with wife Nikki and their two children, Bailey and Blake.



TOGETHER AGAIN - Maj. James B. White spends time with his girlfriend, Jennifer.

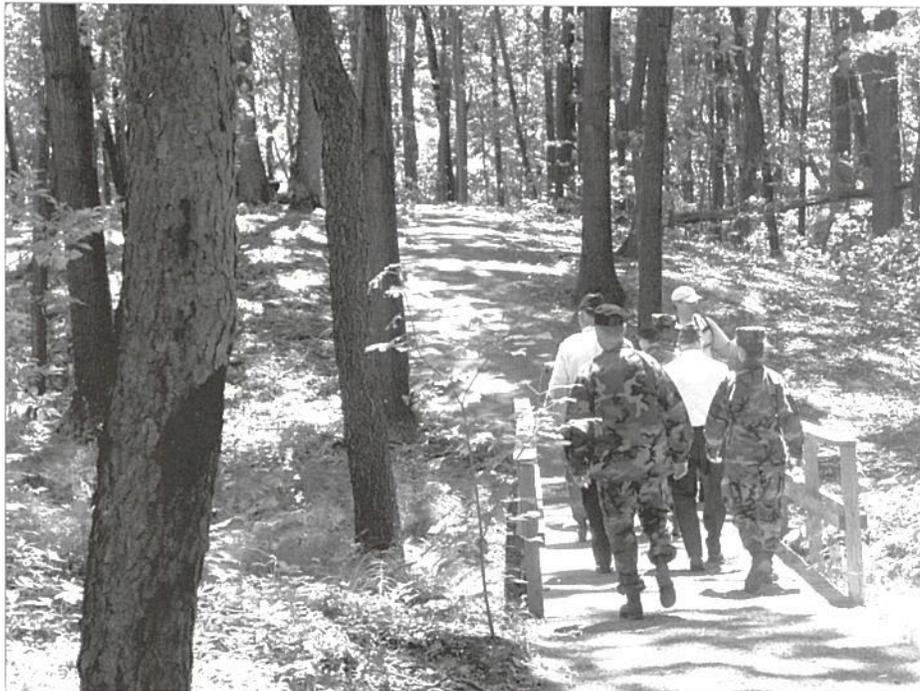
- photos by Patti-Lu Ouimette, wife of SMSgt. Derek Ouimette, 58th APS

Families welcome home aerial porters from Qatar

Excited family members greeted 25 members of the 58th Aerial Port Squadron who came home June 19 after serving more than four months at

Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The aerial porters left Westover Feb. 11 and handled daily cargo operations at the base alongside other Air Force Reserve and active-duty

counterparts serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Patriot Wing reservists returned in a Westover C-5A.



Base dedicates Patriot Trail

ON THE TRAIL - Leadership with the 439th AW takes a walk on the Patriot Trail following its dedication June 12. Andrew G. Milroy, natural and cultural resources manager for Westover, led a nature walk through the trail following its dedication.



photos by Senior Airman Michael Lanza

Griffin Services workers groomed Patriot Trail and installed a sign with a flower bed at the foundations. The trail runs along the southwestern edge of the base near the family camping area and Willimansett Brook.

Patriot People

Name: Pauline N. Wilczynski
Civilian rank: GS-5
Age: 65
Address: Ludlow, Mass.
Unit: Plans office, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Position: Secretary
Favorite food: Shrimp lo mien
Years of service: 15
Favorite sport: Tennis
Favorite hobby: Cooking
Ideal vacation: Santa Fe, N.M.
Best way to relax: Front porch swing
Preferred entertainment: Listening to music
Favorite hero: Doris Mager, "Eagle Lady"
Favorite music: Reggae
Favorite movie: Amadeus
Favorite aircraft: U-2
Pet peeve: People who cough and sneeze near me
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Buy a railroad and take my family and friends to see the U.S.A.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Pauline N. Wilczynski

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

Joseph M. Lemoine
 Vidyanand Setaram

Senior master sergeant:

Michael P. Grady

Master sergeant:

Gregory A. Baker
 Gregory G. Becker
 Antonio Demarco

Technical sergeant:

Patrick K. Campbell
 Michael J. Downs
 Lewis T. Garreffa
 David A. Jeleniewski
 Michael S. Laffond
 Robert A. Leduc

Cheryl L. Mottershead
 Francis R. Newfield
 William P. Powers
 Francis Robles
 David L. Rondeau
 Brenda L. Sanderson
 Mark G. Seitz
 Phillip M. Syriac
 Kenneth H. Trabert
 Patrick A. Tynan
 Phaly S. Walker

Staff sergeant:

Kendra J. Bean
 Thomas J. Hans
 Cynthia L. Lapriore
 Kerry Anne Trombly
 Anthony Windom

Senior airman:

Joseph M. Clinton

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

Master sergeant:
 Arthur R. Needham II *

Technical sergeant:

Stephen M. Adamczyk*
 Paul R. Brant
 Daniel A. Cote*
 Teresa I. Culpepper**
 Richard M. Doty*
 Helen M. Hillman*
 Bradford J. June
 Francis J. Malone
 Kevin R. Nee*
 Manuel J. Ray*

Staff sergeant:

David J. Demers
 John F. Maycock
 Daniel P. O'Flaherty*
 Peter J. Pavenski
 John P. Skaza III*
 Scott Theriault*

Senior airman:

Michael Hyde
 David M. McCardle

Air Force Commendation Medal

Major:
 Dorothy A. Kleinert
 Captain:
 Krista M. Bonner*
 Daniel J. Lonergan

Senior master sergeant:

Albert C. Hayford *
 Cheryl A. Medvetsky**

Technical sergeant:

Donald K. Blaisdell*
 Daniel C. Breckenridge
 Frederick D. Gardner**
 Keith R. Rouselle*
 Kevin D. Roux*
 Richard T. Schmoke

Staff sergeant:

Wayne A. Baptiste
 Anthony C. Giardini
 Bruce J. Lawler
 Ronald C. Phelps*

Meritorious Service Medal

Lieutenant colonel:
 Stanley E. Chartoff

Chief master sergeant:
 Bruce L. Westcott*

Senior master sergeant:
 Neal A. Jason
 Jon M. Sorak

Master sergeant:
 Nicole D. Remy
 Corinne A. Squier
 Kevin F. Trombley

*First oak leaf cluster

**Second oak leaf cluster

'Newest' C-5 aids Patriot Wing's global mission

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

Westover recently welcomed a new kid on the block to the base. No, not a terrible boy band from the early '90s, but a C-5A transferred from Dover AFB, Del.

The "newest" C-5, tail number 0447, was built in 1970 so the airlift veteran arrives with a couple bumps and bruises – as well as a storied history. The transfer is part of a modernization program to upgrade Dover's C-5s to B models and bring their A models here.

While the C-5 officially belongs to the 439th Airlift Wing and is flying, Senior Master Sgt. Michael C. Barrick, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron air reserve technician, was quick to point out that the aircraft doesn't yet carry a Westover maintenance blue- or red-colored designation stripe on its tail.

"No one does maintenance like we do," he said, pointing out that while the aircraft is in good shape and flyable, it still needs to go through the vigor of a 439th AMXS "spit shine" to earn its stripe. His point is validated by the fact all three maintenance squadrons recently received the first "outstanding" rating from a 22nd Air Force Maintenance Standardization Evaluation Program inspection, and boast the highest C-5 launch reliability rate in the command. "That's our name on there," he added.

In addition to getting the Westover touch, the aircraft will undergo its scheduled periodic depot maintenance at Robins AFB, Ga., later this fall where it will receive a major overhaul.

While 0447 still has a little way to go to be deemed fully Patriot-worthy, it has certainly proven its mettle. More importantly, it also participated in the event which is credited for putting the C-5 on the map, The Yom Kippur War. Soon after Soviet-backed Egyptian and Syrian forces attacked Israel on Oct. 6, 1973, then-President Richard Nixon directed a massive aerial re-supply operation called



photo by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

YOM KIPPUR WAR VETERAN – Airman 1st Class David P. Utke, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, removes a cover from the "newest" C-5 added to the Westover inventory.

NICKEL GRASS. For 32 days, C-5s and C-141s flew 567 missions carrying 22,300 tons of material in support of the Israeli forces, according to retired Col. Walter J. Boyne, former director of the National Air and Space Museum.

The operation was the first major operational test for the C-5, which had its share of critics. The C-5's results were impressive and helped validate its place with Military Airlift Command, the predecessor to Air Mobility Command. While flying only about 25 percent of the missions, the C-5 – including 0447 – carried nearly 50 percent of the tonnage. This included more than 2,000 tons of oversized equipment such as M-60 tanks and 155 mm howitzers that only the C-5 could carry.

Another historic C-5A – the Air Force's oldest – also belonged to the 439th AW. A veteran Patriot Wing aircrew flew tail 66-8304 to the military aircraft "boneyard" at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., in May.

Today, 0447 awaits its opportunity to further contribute to the Air Force's and Westover's storied history.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Biscoe

EMPTY STRIPE - The tail on 0447 still awaits the trademark Patriot Wing colors and logo. This C-5A, built in 1970, joined the flight line at Westover from Dover AFB, Del., in May.

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

August UTA schedule
A/B UTA August 14-15
(Great New England Air Show)



Published monthly for Patriots like MSgt. Karen R. Ross, Amesbury, Mass., and 2,330 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

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